

## **Enhancement of Clean Marina Program**

### **A. Summary of Coastal Management Problem**

The 1990 reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act required states with an approved coastal management program to develop comprehensive coastal nonpoint source pollution control programs. In 1995, Virginia submitted a Coastal Nonpoint Program for approval following EPA and NOAA guidance containing detailed management measures for reducing and preventing nonpoint source pollution. NOAA and EPA awarded Virginia conditional approval in 1998, recognizing the many programs Virginia operates to achieve nonpoint source reductions. The federal agencies also identified several management measures that Virginia was not fully implementing, including a few related to marina operations which include control of stormwater runoff from hull maintenance facilities, disposal of fish waste, technical assistance for marina siting and design and impacts to the shoreline from boat operations.

The Commonwealth has 230,000 registered boats and approximately 1000 marinas. Approximately 225 of these are full-service marinas that offer fuel, water or power to boaters. A survey done in 2000 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in preparation for the Virginia Outdoors Plan showed that, overall, the most popular recreational activities in Virginia are water oriented. Boating and fishing were listed in the top ten. Boat-related activities alone, including fishing, water-skiing, power boating, and sailing, generated more than 21 million activity days of demand within the 39 coastal localities. Thus, the Commonwealth recognizes the potential for non-point source pollution from these activities to be significant, particularly since marinas tend to be located in areas with relatively low wave action and tidal flushing, leading to a high degree of persistence.

In 1999, the Commonwealth initiated a Marina Technical Advisory Program and a Clean Marina Program to help prevent and mitigate nonpoint source pollution from marina operations.

### **B. Identification of Implementation Activities**

- Provide technical assistance to Virginia Marinas on key environmental issues, programs and BMP's to reduce nonpoint source pollution.
- Work with Virginia marinas to designate 50 clean marinas between FY 01 and FY 03.
- Publicize Virginia Clean Marinas and pledges through a Clean Marina Newsletter, Clean Marina websites, boat show displays, advertisements, press releases, and news articles.
- Coordinate the Virginia Clean Marina Program with other state, regional and federal activities. This will include working closely with the Virginia Department of Health 'Pumpout' Program and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Program.
- Implement outreach strategy to boaters through developing, updating and distributing clean boating and Clean Marina Program information at 2-3 regional boat shows per year, which may include technical workshops also.

### **Further Program Development Activities**

- Identify other marina related groups such as public access ramps, residential and commercial (hotels, restaurants, etc.) areas, retailers, manufacturers, shellfish & finfish processing, military installations, boat yards, port facilities, etc. for the Clean Marina program and if necessary develop specialized criteria for a Clean Marinas “partners” designation. (FY 01)
- Convert current marina mailing database into a comprehensive database of Virginia marinas, which will include information on best management practices being implemented at each site and services offered to the boater. This will include type of BMP and locational information. Continue maintenance and improvements into future years. (FY 01 and beyond)
- Develop a GIS coverage of existing marinas in Virginia and other regional clean marinas in the Chesapeake Bay (maps will be used to help publicize/promote clean marinas and pledges). This will be combined with DCR’s sub-watershed coverage for assessing nonpoint source pollution. (FY 01)
- Develop a plan for delivering targeted technical assistance to marinas situated in the areas of highest concern. (FY 02)
- Identify the most significant sources of fish waste (greatest impacts - tournaments, high use access areas, commercial work boats, charter boats, etc.) from marina patrons to Virginia waters and develop a plan for reducing these impacts. (FY 03 and beyond)

### **C. Anticipated Effect of Implementation Activities**

The above changes will support implementation of Virginia’s approved CNPCP. By developing partnerships, creating efficiencies among programs, and targeting efforts to address an under-served constituency, this program can minimize nonpoint source pollution and provide a clean, safe environment for boaters, beachgoers, wildlife enthusiasts, and fishers. The Virginia Clean Marina Program and the MTAP are in a critical early phase of implementation that requires continued support to ensure success.

### **D. Appropriateness of Implementation Activities**

These activities directly address the issue of providing technical assistance to marina owners and operators, homeowners, and state agency staff for the purpose of increasing their awareness of cumulative and secondary impacts that attend marina operation. Implementation of an effective guidance and outreach effort will provide valuable information on how to construct and operate facilities that minimize environmental impacts. Increasing the awareness of the recreational boating community will also be a benefit of this program. Targeted education efforts will result in reducing nonpoint source pollution from boaters. To address the coordination gap identified in the assessment, efforts to integrate this program with other state and regional programs will continue to be pursued.

### **E. General Work Plan**

#### **Program Implementation Tasks:**

**Task 1: Provide technical assistance to Virginia Marinas on key environmental issues, programs and BMP’s to reduce nonpoint source pollution. (FY 01-03)**

The Marina Technical Advisory Program will continue to:

- conduct site evaluations

- answer questions regarding marina environmental issues, the implementation of best management practices, permits and state programs that affect marina operations, etc
- at the request of the marina operator, act as a liaison to the proper agencies/programs for further permitting assistance and/or technical guidance
- function as liaison to Marina Technical and Environmental Advisory Committee
- collect and disseminate information as needed (economic, environmental, state or national trends, etc)
- conduct educational efforts
- work with other relevant state or federal programs
- encourage marina facilities to participate in restoration activities of the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program

Additionally, since the Marina Technical Advisory Program is located with Virginia Sea Grant at VIMS, coordination with the national Sea Grant network will provide access to a national base of knowledge and skills useful for the successful implementation of the Clean Marina Program.

**Task 2: Designate Virginia Clean Marinas. (FY 01-04)**

The Marina Technical Advisory Specialist will work directly with marina owners and operators to promote participation in the program. The Clean Marina Program will sponsor 4-5 technical workshops each year in which marina operators, their staff, and other marina related businesses will be encouraged to attend. Attendees will be provided with a copy of the Clean Marina Guidebook and asked to complete the included self-evaluation form. The Marina Technical Advisory Program specialist will then work with interested parties to help them achieve designation. The Marina Technical & Environmental Advisory Committee will review and approve designation requests. Once per year, the new designees will be formally recognized at an awards ceremony. The Virginia Clean Marina Program has set a goal of designating 50 marinas of the approximately 225 full service marinas in Virginia as clean marinas or clean marina pledges during the time period (FY 01 – 03).

**Task 3: Publicize Virginia Clean Marinas. (FY 01-04)**

Virginia Clean Marinas, partners, and pledges will be publicized through a Clean Marina Newsletter, Clean Marina websites, boat show displays, advertisements, press releases, and news articles.

**Task 4: Continue coordination of the Virginia Clean Marina Program with regional Clean Marina programs as well as other appropriate state and federal programs and organizations. (FY 01 – 03)**

During the initial phase of the Virginia Clean Marina Program an effort to establish a regional approach to address marina and recreational boating issues was started. It is anticipated that continued coordination with Maryland, Washington, D.C. (the National Park Service), Delaware, North Carolina, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and EPA will provide some level of consistency for the recreational boating community. Establishment of common goals among these partners will limit the potential of nonpoint source pollution entering the water.

Further program changes are expected through increased coordination among state and federal agencies and organizations. The Virginia Clean Marina Program is working directly with these other entities to improve the delivery of services to marinas, recreational boaters, and marine industries. The Clean Marina Program is coordinating activities with the Pollution Prevention Program at DEQ, the Good Mate Program at the Center for Marine Conservation, the Clean Vessel Committee at the Virginia Department of Health, the Chesapeake Bay Program (Businesses for the Bay), the Hazardous Waste Section of DEQ, the Small Business Compliance Loan Fund, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Tidewater Marine Trade Association of Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association and the Virginia Association of Marine Industries.

**Task 5: Implement Outreach/Education Strategy for Boaters. (FY 01-04)**

The Clean Marina Program will implement the outreach/education strategy for the boating public by providing an educational display at two to three regional boat shows, which may also include a workshops for boaters to promote clean boating practices and to encourage boaters to patronize Virginia and regional clean marinas. Staff will work to continually develop new materials with fresh approaches for these venues. Feedback will be provided to the Marina Technical & Environmental Advisory Committee to guide future outreach efforts.

**Further Program Development Tasks:**

**Task 6: Identify potential partners for the Clean Marina program and if necessary develop specialized criteria for a Clean Marinas “partners” designation. (FY 01)**

Identify other marina related groups such as public access ramps, residential and commercial (hotels, restaurants, etc.) areas, retailers, manufacturers, shellfish & finfish processing, military installations, boat yards, port facilities, etc. for the Clean Marina program and if necessary develop specialized criteria for a Clean Marinas “partners” designation.

**Task 7: Convert mailing database into a comprehensive database of Virginia marinas. (FY 01 and beyond)**

Convert mailing list into a comprehensive database of Virginia marinas, which will include best management practices and services offered to the boater. This will include type of BMP and locational information. This will include mailing addresses, business locations, number of slips, type and extent of services offered (pumpouts, fuel, water, electricity, etc.), which BMPs exist onsite, etc. Future years will continue to add appropriate information.

**Task 8: Develop a marina GIS coverage. (FY 01)**

Develop a GIS coverage of existing marinas in Virginia and other regional clean marinas in the Chesapeake Bay (maps will be used to help publicize/promote clean marinas and pledges). This GIS coverage will be developed to be compatible with the above database in Task 7.

**Task 9: Develop and implement a plan for delivering targeted area-specific technical assistance to marinas situated areas of highest concern. (FY 02)**

An interagency technical workgroup coordinated by the Marina Technical Advisory specialist will synthesize and evaluate the nonpoint source pollution assessment data, results

of the Marina Siting Suitability Analysis project, water quality impairment data, marina BMP type and location data, and other appropriate data. Areas of highest concern will be identified and recommendations made to the Marina Technical and Environmental Advisory Committee. Area-specific technical assistance efforts will be developed.

**Task 10: Identify the greatest sources of fish waste impacts from marina patrons to Virginia Waters and develop a plan for reducing these impacts. (FY 03 and beyond)**

To further contribute to the implementation of the coastal nonpoint source management measures relative to fish waste in marinas, it is necessary to identify the greatest sources of fish waste to the waterways of the Commonwealth. To obtain this data, marina owners and operators, recreational boaters at marinas, and commercial, charter, and head boats will be evaluated for potential impacts through site visits and interviews. Utilizing this information, a prioritized work plan for reducing the most significant impacts will be developed.

**F. Summary of Program Costs**

	FY01	FY02	FY03
Personnel	43,966	48,795	24,803
Fringe benefits	11,871	13,175	6,697
Equipment	0	0	0
Travel	5,250	6,000	4,500
Supplies	6,413	7,030	6,500
Other	7,500	7,500	7,500
Total	75,000	82,500	50,000

Budget detail:

- Personnel: marina specialist full-time for FY 01 and 02 and 50% time in FY 03, program support tech 2 months in FY 01 and 3 months in FY 02
- Fringe benefits: 27% of salaries
- Travel: vehicle mileage (assuming 10,000 miles per year in FY 01 = \$3,250 with slight increase in FY 02= \$3,500) \$1000 to cover food and lodging of routine travel, and travel to one professional conference in years 01 (\$1,000) and 02 (\$1500)
- Supplies: 4-5 workshops per year (\$1,413 FY 01 and \$1,730 FY 02) and boat show materials and kits \$5,000 per year and \$300 in FY 02 for TV/VCR combo
- Other: Per year= \$500 printing and postage for updated BMP chapters (web accessible too), \$2,500 for boat show space rental at 3 shows per year, \$4,500 for marina flags, plaques, signage, and all associated costs with award ceremony or other recognition events

**G. Likelihood of Successful Implementation of the Program Changes**

The development of a Virginia Clean Marina Program helped Virginia gain NOAA and EPA approval for its non-point program. All of the proposed activities are very likely to be completed within the timelines based upon the experience of other similar clean marina programs. The program is successfully building a constituency and to date nearly half of the full-service marinas have been in contact with the Program for assistance and information.

## **H. Fiscal and Technical Needs**

Funding and staffing levels of natural resource agencies in Virginia are currently fixed, with no new funding likely. Projected surpluses in the Virginia economy have not been realized. Various tax reduction programs compound the likelihood of reductions to agency budgets. This limits the agencies' abilities to undertake new or expanded program activities without outside funding. Alternative funding is limited, but will be sought from other state and federal sources to further complement the Virginia Clean Marina Program's activities. At this time we have identified that additional funds are needed for program enhancement such as clean boater workshops, promotional items, training videos, and pollution prevention kits/materials. We will also be seeking to supplement basic program funding beginning in FY 03, when the request for federal coastal zone management support is reduced.